

NSC BRIEFING

15 November 1956

EASTERN EUROPE

I. Situation in Hungary and Poland still tense.

- A. Background and character of difficulties in Eastern Europe facing USSR covered fully in last week's briefing.**
- B. The press is following details of day-to-day developments closely.**
- C. Complicated Communist wheeling and dealing still in process.**
 - 1. Soviet delegation of 12, headed by Mikoyan, Suslov and possibly Khrushchev, apparently descended on Budapest Tuesday (13 November).**
 - 2. Gomulka and Premier Cyrankiewicz left Poland on Wednesday for negotiations in Moscow.**

II. In both these Eastern European trouble spots, Soviet leaders are working overtime and without firm formula for success in effort to get situation back in control.

- A. Trying judicious combination of carrot and stick, but precise mix that will work is tough to find.**
- B. In Hungary, Moscow tried to appease revolutionaries, then shot at them, then appeased them extravagantly, then tricked and butchered them, now still claiming to intend to give concessions once situation is stable under loyal Communist regime.**
 - 1. Soviets also first kept food shipments out of starving Budapest, but now has relaxed blockade.**

DOCUMENT NO. 12
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. #1
X UNCLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGES BY TS 3 C
NEXT REVIEW DATE
DATE 1-16-80 REVIEWED 8/20/44

2. Now, as further use of stick, Soviet deporting dissident Hungarians on significant scale. Budapest radio admitted yesterday that "prisoners have been transported to the East in locked railway cars."
 3. At same time, Kadar government has held out carrot--nine leading Hungarian Stalinists were expelled yesterday from Central Committee and banned from political leadership.
 - a. Most prominent among the purged was Andras Hegedus, former premier who had replaced Imre Nagy in 1955 and was replaced in turn by Nagy at beginning of rebellion.
 4. But protracted strike by sullen Hungarian populace (one of hardest forms of resistance to quell by force) continues to be expanded. Doubtful workers will be impressed by Communist-flavored carrots.
- C. In Poland Moscow presumably is willing continue Gomulka "independent but loyal" brand of Communism.
1. Presumably tactily agreed to sacking of Rokossowski as Polish Defense Minister and Deputy Premier.
 2. At same time, Moscow has ^{altered} ~~altered~~ its nearby troops so there can be no mistake about possibility of use of Soviet military power if situation turns too much anti-Soviet as Hungary.

III. As to Basic Soviet attitude, best recent clue is Khrushchev's 7 November statement [REDACTED]

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- A. Said USSR still willing give "favorable" consideration to Hungarian requests for Soviet troop withdrawal and even "neutrality."
- B. Implication was USSR would settle for nominal "neutrality" once Hungary is controlled effectively by Communist regime.
- C. Real question is whether Communists can establish firm control on this basis in Hungary or retain what they have in Poland in face of people's hatred and chaotic economic situation.